



Traps vs Carriers

Using a trap increases the chances the cat will be caught, making it more likely the cat will show up for his appointment.

- If the caregiver is unsuccessful putting the cat in a carrier, they will need to reschedule their appointment and preferably check out a trap. Now that there has been an attempt to catch the cat, he will be more wary of the caregiver and may be harder to catch than if they started out using the trap.
- Traps reduce risk of injury to the caregiver and the cat if he refuses to go in the carrier or tries to escape. Many people feel that if they can pet the cat they will be able to pick him up and place in a carrier. More often than not, the cat resists when picked up and becomes defensive when being forced into a carrier. If a person is bitten by a cat, the cat must be quarantined for 10 days (FCCO does not quarantine cats for caregivers), they need to seek immediate medical attention, and a series of rabies vaccinations may be needed.
- Using traps reduces the possibility of a negative association with the caregiver, which many caregivers fear, and the reason they want to use a carrier instead of a trap. However, the cat will associate his fear and anxiety with the trap instead of the human trapping him when using a humane trap.
- Traps are more hygienic for the cat and easier for the cat to stay dry. Carriers do not have any way to drain, so urine and feces pool in them and the cat ends up in what we call a “urine swamp”[Ⓜ]. Whereas when the cat is in a trap, waste can drain out the bottom or be easily cleaned. The cat can also be moved more easily into another cage while this one is being cleaned if needed.
- Cats who come in carriers have to be transferred to a squeeze cage to be anesthetized, which increases the risk of escape and injury to staff/volunteers. This also takes approximately 10 times longer than anesthetizing a cat in a trap, which can limit the number of surgeries we do in a day.
- Traps provide better visibility during recovery to check for any complications from surgery. It is difficult to see into dark carriers, and hard to handle the cat if he is having a rough recovery.
- The traps we provide are long enough for the cat to stretch out after surgery while he is recovering. Often the cat arrives in a carrier too small for him to stretch out in during recovery. When this happens, we have to check out a trap to them or an FCCO carrier if available.
- Traps are more secure than carriers and decrease risk of the cat escaping. Many carriers have missing parts and broken doors, making it possible for the cats to escape.